







Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Brigham Young University

<https://archive.org/details/aldinecollection141rost>

# Newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE MANUSCRIPT. The library is pleased to have acquired the original manuscript of Arthur Conan Doyle's novel *The Refugees*. Subtitled *A Tale of Two Continents*, this example from the hand of the creator of Sherlock Holmes is a happy choice for an institution such as the Lee Library where an interest in both Victorian literature and Americana is fostered. *The Refugees* is significant as being the last of Doyle's long historical novels, written at a time when the author was turning most of his attention to the detective stories which would ultimately assure him long-lasting fame.

Bound with the two volume manuscript is a portion of the original draft of Doyle's *Uncle Bernac*, another historical novel. These works are highly relevant to our Victorian collection. Although they represent attempts by the author to describe events of other time periods and places, these historical novels clearly reveal Conan Doyle as one who came from Victorian England. It is precisely because he was at his best when writing within the scope of his own society that we become most aware of that society and culture when he tried to break away from it. Although Doyle is delightful in the Victorian context of his detective stories, his basic values and attitudes are clearly marked as they show up as anachronisms in his historical works. It is one thing, for instance, to accept the idealized, demurring romanticism of Miss Mary Morstan in *The Sign of Four*, but quite another to meet with it in Adèle, the seventeenth-century Huguenot heroine of *The Refugees*.

Our manuscript, indeed, illustrates how historical novels allowed Conan Doyle to escape from certain strictures of his better-known Victorian style. In all of the Sherlock Holmes adventures, for instance, a certain calm is retained most of the time. The incident of the engineer's thumb lopped off at the window sill might be cited as one of the more gruesome events which the reader will find in those stories. In



*The Refugees*, however, the reader's apprehensions build gradually until they equal those of the best movie thrillers of today. The engineer's loss of a thumb becomes child's play as our heroes, in *The Refugees*, penetrate the Iroquois infested woods of Canada. The manuscript shows that Doyle cranked out the torture and mutilation scenes with as much facility as ever he described Holmes in a lethargy at the Baker Street flat. There is a fascination in this versatility of Sir Arthur. We must not forget that the same man who devised the astounding deductions of the world's greatest detective also spent his latter years trying to reach his dead son through mediums, and published photographs of winged fairies dancing in country gardens.<sup>1</sup>

*The Refugees* manuscript is a good example of Victorian novel writing. A quick perusal reminds one that most of these works were rapidly produced. Entire pages can be found with only one or two words altered. "... I remember that I once did 10,000 words of the 'Refugees' in 24 hours," Doyle later recalled, "It was . . . as sustained an effort as I have ever made. . . ."<sup>2</sup> It was written the year of the Columbian Exposition, commemorating the five-hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America, and one scene in particular reflects an appreciation for the New World. As the Huguenot refugees sail into Quebec, their dying father is propped up on deck so he can observe the terrain. His comments follow, as reproduced from page thirty-nine of the manuscript, volume two:

*"It is not like France," said he. "It is not green and peaceful and smiling, but it is grand and strong and stern like Him who made it. As I have weakened, Adèle, my soul has been less clogged by my body, and I have seen clearly much that has been dim to me. And it has seemed to me, my children, that all this country of America, not ~~this~~ Canada alone, but the land where you were born also, Amos Green, and all that stretches away towards yonder setting sun will be the best gift of God to man. For this has He held it concealed through all the ages, that now His own high purpose may be wrought upon it. For here is a land which is innocent, which has no past guilt to atone for, no feud, nor ill custom, nor evil of any kind. And as the years roll on all the weary and homeless ones, all who are stricken and landless and wronged will turn their faces to it, even as we have done. And hence will come a nation which will surely take all that is good and leave all that is bad, moulding and fashioning itself into*

"It is not like France," said he, "It is not green and graceful and smiling, but it is grand and strong and stern like Him who made it. As I have weakened, Adèle, my soul has been less clogged by my body, and I have seen clearly much that has been dim to me. And it has seemed to me, my children, that all this country of America, not ~~this~~ Canada alone, but the land where you were born also, Amos Green, and all that stretches away towards yonder setting sun will be the best gift of God to man. For thus has He held it concealed through all the ages, that now His own high purpose may be wrought upon it. For here is a land which is innocent, which has no past guilt to atone for, no feud, nor ill custom, nor evil of any kind. And as the years roll on all the weary and homeless ones, all who are stricken and landless and wronged will turn their faces to it, even as we have done. And hence will come a nation which will surely take all that is good and leave all that is bad, moulding and fashioning itself into the highest. Do I not see such a mighty people - a people who will care more to raise their lowest than to exalt their richest - who will understand that there is more bravery in peace than in war, who will see that all men are brothers, and whose hearts will not narrow themselves down to their own frontier, but will warm in sympathy with every noble cause the whole world through. That is what I see, Adèle, as I lie here beside a shore upon which I shall never set my feet, and I say to you that if you and Amos go to the building of such a nation then indeed your lives are not mispent. It will come, and when it comes may God guard it, may God watch over it and direct it!" His head had sunk gradually lower upon his breast and his lids had fallen slowly over his eyes which had been looking away out <sup>past</sup> ~~over~~ Point Levi at the rolling woods and the far-off mountains.

Many pages of Doyle's first draft were submitted to the typesetters with almost no corrections.



*the highest. Do I not see such a mighty people — a people who will care more to raise their lowest than to exalt their richest — who will understand that there is more bravery in peace than in war, who will see that all men are brothers, and whose hearts will not narrow themselves down to their own frontiers, but will warm in sympathy with every noble cause the whole world through.*

It is hardly surprising to read these words when we learn that Doyle deliberately set out to please his American readers. In January of 1892, he wrote his mother concerning *The Refugees*, then being written:

*. . . This should be a new thing to Americans, and I shall be surprised if it does not fetch them. If I, a Britisher, could draw their early types so as to win their approval, I should be indeed proud, for by such international associations, nations are drawn together, and on the drawing together of these two nations depends the future of the world.<sup>3</sup>*

Many of the pages of the manuscript are mended, showing where it was divided for distribution to the typesetters at Longmans, Green, and Company, in London. That first edition was published in 1893, at the same time appearing as a serial in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*. This was Doyle's last "three-decker," or three-volume novel, so typical of the Victorian period. A copy may be seen in the library's special collections, along with the first German edition, signed by detective story writer Vincent Starret.

Material by Doyle is difficult and expensive to acquire, and the library is fortunate to possess a complete work in manuscript by that important Victorian author. In studying it, we are able to see the development of this novel, the reorganization of its first chapters, and the changes Doyle made. It reveals not only how Sir Arthur tried to write outside the domain of his own experiences but also displays the romantic idealism he took for granted in his own society.

*Rick Eldon Grunder*

---

<sup>1</sup>"When Columbus knelt in prayer upon the edge of America, what prophetic eye saw all that a new continent might do to affect the destinies of the world? We also seem to be on the edge of a new continent, separated not by oceans but by subtle and surmountable psychic conditions. I look at the prospect with awe." Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Coming of the Fairies* (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1922), p. 41.

<sup>2</sup>Pierre Nordon, *Conan Doyle*, trans. by Frances Partridge (London: John Murray, 1966), p. 322.

<sup>3</sup>*Ibid.* p. 320.

**J** OHN M. BERNHISEL. The descendents of Dr. John M. Bernhisel have presented his papers to the BYU Library. Bernhisel was Utah Territory's first delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

His papers reveal the important part he played in early Utah history and show how the tenseness of his times compounded the difficulty of his role and magnified the significance of his work.

The Mormons viewed the federal government with mixed feelings. They believed the Constitution was divinely inspired, and upon arriving in Utah, they began to work toward organizing their communities into a state which could be incorporated into the Union. Their experience had taught them, however, that their trust in the nature of the federal government could not safely be extended to the men who exercised the government's power.

Brigham Young publicly expressed the hope that the United States would leave him and his people alone for ten years while the Saints entrenched themselves in the mountains. He got his wish, but at the end of that time, the United States declared war on the Mormons and sent an army to quell a rebellion that never was. The ten-year period of grace was largely the result of the efforts of Bernhisel.

Bernhisel graduated with high honors from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania in 1827. His lifelong friend, Thomas L. Kane, was a member of that same class. Dr. Bernhisel practiced medicine in Philadelphia and New York City, building up an excellent practice.

During this period, he first heard the Gospel preached by the elders of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. "Not for one moment, from that day until the hour of his death", wrote his son, "did he falter in the faith." In early 1842, Dr. Bernhisel joined the main body of the Church in Nauvoo, Illinois. He became a close friend of Joseph Smith and took up residence in the Mansion House. At Governor Ford's request, Dr. Bernhisel was asked to testify in Joseph's behalf at the intended trial for which the Prophet went to Carthage Jail. He visited Joseph and his fellow prisoners twice the day before the Smiths were killed.

As the Mormons were preparing to come to Utah, Brigham Young conceived the idea that part of the expenses of the trek could be defrayed by enlisting Mormon men in the U.S. Army and letting the army transport them west. Dr. Bernhisel and Thomas Kane were given



the assignment of presenting the idea to President Polk's administration. When Washington agreed, Bernhisel and Kane made the arrangements that incorporated the Mormon Battalion into the U.S. Army. Kane, who was not a member of the Mormon Church, stayed in the East, but Bernhisel went to Utah in 1848, the year after the first Mormons arrived.

During the following year, the Mormons created the "State of Deseret" and prepared to petition Congress for statehood. They selected Dr. Bernhisel to go to Washington to represent their cause. Armed with letters of recommendation from Brigham Young and others, Bernhisel went to Senator Stephen A. Douglas for assistance. Douglas, who had once been Joseph Smith's attorney, presented their memorial to Congress. It requested statehood or at least territorial status. Bernhisel also received help from his friend, Col. Kane, who, as he reported to Brigham Young,

*. . . is an ardent friend, and took a deep interest in our proposed application to Congress, and kindly promised to write to some of the members in relation to our admission [as a state] and to send me a few letters of introduction to representatives in both houses of Congress. The colonel is, in point of intelligence, above mediocrity, and is a shrewd politician. . . .*

While Bernhisel waited for congressional action on his petition, he involved himself in many other issues that touched Utah interests. Among the manuscripts in the Bernhisel papers is a long handwritten report he wrote to Brigham Young, dated March 21, 1850, from "Washington City." He details some of his experiences and speculates on the probability of his success. Two examples of his observations are:

*The House of Representatives, after spending three weeks, at an expense of three thousand dollars per day, in unavailing attempts to choose a speaker, elected the Hon. Howell Cobb of Georgia, on the 22nd of December. The noise and confusion which prevailed during part of some of the sittings of the House, while the election was pending, beggars all description.*

*Very inflammatory speeches were delivered, and threats very freely made by Southern members, of dissolving the Union, in the event*



The people of Utah cannot but consider it their right, as American citizens, to be governed by men of their own choice, entitled to their confidence, and united with them in opinion and feeling; but the undersigned will add, that for especial and important reasons which grow out of the peculiar circumstances of the community of Deseret and its government, the People are prepared to esteem as a high favor the nomination by the President of the entire list of officers above submitted, as it stands, and will not fail to evince that they remember it with gratitude.

With sentiments of deep respect,  
I have the honor to be  
~~very~~ <sup>very</sup> respectfully  
Your obedient servant,  
John M. Bernhisel

To the Hon

To his Excellency

Millard Fillmore

President of the United States.

"Pierces" Washington September 16, 1850

*that the Wilmot Proviso should be passed or slavery be abolished in the District of Columbia.*

The question of Utah statehood became enmeshed in the struggle between North and South. The easiest way to handle the Utah problem was to avoid it. Congress rejected the Mormon request to be a state and created the territory of Utah in September, 1850. Bernhisel wrote his constituents that "Washington was not friendly to the title of 'Territory of Deseret' because it sounded too much like 'desert'."

In the collection of Bernhisel papers are letters to and from President Millard Fillmore. In two letters, Dr. Bernhisel makes recommendations for appointments of officials for Utah Territory. One is reproduced here. He suggested to President Fillmore the names of Brigham Young for governor; Willard Richards as secretary; Zerubbabel Snow, chief justice; Heber C. Kimball and Newel K. Whitney, associate justices; Seth M. Blair, territorial attorney; and Joseph L. Heywood as territorial marshal.

For five successive terms after the Territory of Utah was created, its citizens elected Bernhisel as delegate to Congress. Although it was typical of early Mormon elections for Bernhisel to receive the unanimous vote of his constituents, the certificate of election reproduced here is extraordinary in American history.

The BYU Library collection shows how Bernhisel helped establish a federally sponsored Utah territorial library and that he supported the use of camels for transporting army stores in the West. There is correspondence in the collection about the construction of the Utah penitentiary, as well as the extension of a military road from Bridger's Pass to Salt Lake City.

Bernhisel's successes ended suddenly when two judges, who had run away from Utah, arrived in Washington with tales of a Mormon rebellion against the United States. Washington buzzed with the story, and nothing Bernhisel could do could alleviate the growing furor. Without an investigation, President Buchanan declared war on the Mormons and sent an army to put down the supposed rebellion.

Bernhisel and Kane both left Washington. Bernhisel went to Utah by the shortest route. Kane, disguised and unrecognized, entered Utah from the west. Both men participated in the creation of the compromise which ended the "Utah War" with a stalemate. Then each



Certificate  
of Election

Territory of Utah  
Executive Department

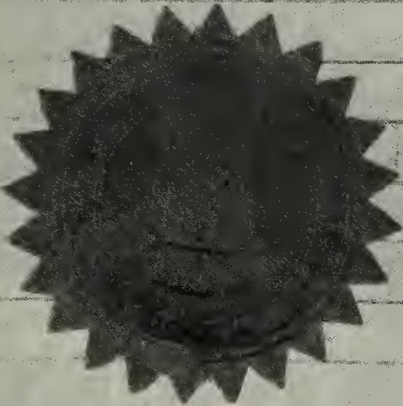
I Brigham Young, Governor of said Territory Do cer-  
tify that at a General Election, held in and for said Terri-  
tory, on Monday the Sixth day of August, A.D. One thousand  
eight hundred and fifty five, for a Delegate to represent said  
Territory of Utah in the Congress of the United States, one  
thousand, seven hundred, and fifty eight votes were polled  
and that Dr. John M. Bernhisel, received one thousand  
seven hundred and fifty eight votes, as it appears by the returns of said  
Election, filed in the Executive Department. Therefore  
I do hereby declare the said Dr. John M. Bernhisel  
duly elected, Delegate of said Territory of Utah to the thirty  
fourth Congress of the United States,

In testimony whereof I have here-  
unto subscribed my name, and caused  
the seal of said Territory to be affixed  
Done at Great Salt Lake City, Terri-  
tory aforesaid, this thirtieth day of  
August, in the year of our Lord, One  
thousand eight hundred and fifty five  
and of the Independence of the United States  
of America, the eightieth.

By the Governor

A. W. P. Babbitt Secretary

Brigham Young  
Governor



Certificate of election signed by Brigham Young, Governor. As territorial delegate, Bernhisel could speak in the U.S. Congress but could not vote.



returned to the East again. Bernhisel once again represented Utah Territory in Congress. "Official" Washington was more than cordial to the returned delegate. The collection contains this report to his wife:

*The feelings of the President, officers of the Cabinet, members of Congress and other officers of the Government, citizens and people generally throughout the country, was never before so friendly toward us as a people as it is at present and I hope it may continue.*

Among his papers are calling cards of presidents, congressmen, and cabinet members, including Millard Fillmore, Sam Houston, Stephen A. Douglas, Thomas L. Kane, William H. Seward, and many others. There are also letters from illustrious and powerful citizens. Among them are two from President Fillmore expressing thanks for a gift of the Book of Mormon. It is reproduced here. There is an undated note from President Franklin S. Pierce which says, "the President will be happy to see Dr. Bernhisel at his convenience," and two dinner invitations from President and Mrs. Pierce. After his final return to Washington, Bernhisel wrote home to his wife, Elizabeth: "On Wednesday evening of last week I was at a large party at the President's. It is supposed to have been the most splendid party ever given in America."

This high society never caused him to forget the people at home. His thoughts were with his family, and he appears to have been a good husband. The letters to Elizabeth show his concern for his family and farm. He sent grapevine cuttings with these instructions: "I wish you would ask Milton [his son] to plant [them] along the stable and board fence down to the corner. . . . They should be watered every five days and very good care taken of them that they may grow." He also sent apple and pear grafts, along with three dozen strawberry plants. "Let Milton go down to Brother Hemenway," he wrote, "who resides opposite our lot in the Fourth Ward and ask him to come up and put the apple grafts in the trees of the west row . . . I want Milton to be particular to mark them as well as the strawberries, so that he will know their names. . . ." In another letter he requests of Elizabeth: "Will you please to see that Sarah does not put so much salt into the victuals as she used to do, for it is unwholesome and we should always eat what is most wholesome."



Washington, Aug. 28. 1853.

Hon. John M. Bernhisel,

My Dear Sir,

I regret that I did not have the pleasure of seeing you this morning when you called, but I avail myself of the earliest moment to return my thanks for the beautiful copy of the "Book of Mormon" & of a "Series of Pamphlets by A. Pratt" which you were so kind as to leave for me. I am respectfully yours

Millard Fillmore

Note to Dr. Bernhisel in the handwriting of President Millard Fillmore.

His letters also reveal his simple, unassuming generosity. To Elizabeth he advised, "If teams are sent again in the spring to the Missouri to bring in the poor Saints, you may send the same yoke of oxen that went last year."

As one examines the collection, one must appreciate the work of this extraordinary man. He was a strong advocate of his church and of its struggle to colonize the western desert. Though upon retiring, he resumed both his medical practice and farming in Utah territory, he had been no less at home in the finest society, a scholar, gracious and dignified. He was accepted by Eastern sophisticates as an equal, representing Mormonism on a level which few members of the Church could have achieved.

*Dorothy Ray*



Friends of the Brigham Young University Library Newsletter  
Volume 14 Number 1, Fall 1976  
Published by the Friends  
Harold B. Lee Library, Provo, Utah 84602





